Auction of oil and gas blocks in NELP-VIII

566. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI R. C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's largest ever auction of oil and gas blocks in NELP-VIII received a poor response from private and global players in the hydrocarbon industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for poor response to the auction of blocks under NELP-VIII;

(c) whether in view of poor response Government proposes to allocate gas and oil blocks under NELP-VIII to the State owned agencies such as ONGC, Oil etc.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Out of 70 blocks offered under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 36 blocks. The response can not be considered as poor in view of global economic melt-down and also in comparison to the responses received by several other countries during recent bidding rounds. Accordingly to preliminary estimates, the committed investment in NELP-VIII is about US$1.34 billion, which is more than the committed investment of US$ 1.22 billion in NELP-VII.

(c) and (d) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), blocks for exploration of oil and gas are offered through international competitive bidding process. National Oil Companies(NOCs) and private companies bid on a level playing field on transparent Bid Evaluation Criteria(BEC). The blocks are awarded to the eligible company (ies) which gets the maximum points on quantifiable BEC.

Leakage of oil in Sitapur depot at Jaipur

†567. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil in Sitapur depot of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had been leaking for many days and no efforts were made to plug it;

(b) the total stock of oil that was available in Sitapur depot;

(c) whether it is a fact that surrounding area has been engulfed in darkness with black smoke containing poisonous gases like carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen-oxide after the depot caught fire at Sitapur;

(d) the number of deaths and the number of injured labourers hospitalized as a result of fire; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.